United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in unanimous resolution, requests Secretary-General to take necessary steps to re-establish Somali police, judicial and penal systems; urges Member States to contribute to fund for that purpose; commends United Nations' achievements in Somalia and stresses importance of successful completion of UNOSOM II's mission by March 1995.

+ Security Council decides to establish United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia to monitor compliance with Cotonou Peace Agreement, in cooperation with ECOMOG.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council renew UNPROFOR mandate for six months, warning of risk of further conflict in Croatia; to consider dividing Force into three parts, but with integrated command structure.

+ UNICEF, in report entitled "Progress of Nations", says developing world is making more progress on living standards than is generally recognized; cites rising incomes and life expectancy, and declining child death rates and malnutrition levels.

+ Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in message to Secretary-General, expresses hope that international community understands his dissolution of Parliament as measure to preserve democratic changes and economic reform.

+ President Eduard Shevardnadze appeals to Security Council and Secretary-General to help save Georgia from separatist forces besieging Sukhumi; says country is being forced into "abyss of annihilation".

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The Security Council this afternoon approved the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to the re-establishment of the Somali police, judicial and penal systems, and requested him to take the necessary steps on

(more)

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an urgent and accelerated basis to implement them. By unanimously adopting resolution 865 (1993), it requested him to immediately undertake an international recruiting programme for staffing the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) Justice Division with the appropriate specialists. The Council urged Member States to contribute to the fund established for that purpose and for the establishment of the Somali police, or otherwise to provide assistance with personnel, financial support, equipment and training.

The Council commended the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and all the personnel of UNOSOM II for their achievements in greatly improving the conditions of the Somali people and beginning the process of nation-building. It condemned all attacks on UNOSOM II personnel and reaffirmed that those who had committed or had ordered the commission of such criminal acts would be held individually responsible for them.

The resolution also affirmed the importance the Council attached to the successful fulfilment on an urgent and accelerated basis of UNOSOM II's objectives, so that it could complete its mission by March 1995. In that context, it requested the Secretary-General to direct the urgent preparation of a detailed plan setting out the Operation's future strategy with regard to its humanitarian, political and security activities and to report to the Council on that as soon as possible.

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The Security Council today decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for a period of seven months, subject to the proviso that it would continue beyond 16 December only upon a review by the Council on whether substantial progress had been made towards implementing the Cotonou Peace Agreement and other peace measures. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 866 (1993).

The Council noted that UNOMIL would be the first peace-keeping mission undertaken by the United Nations in cooperation with a peace-keeping mission already set up by another organization, in this case the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It emphasized that the ECOWAS Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) bore the primary responsibility for supervising implementation of the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

UNOMIL will investigate reports of cease-fire violations and report to the Joint Cease-Fire Monitoring Committee (JCMC) established by the Peace Agreement and to the Secretary-General; monitor compliance with other elements of the Agreement, particularly regarding the arms embargo against Liberia and the disarmament and demobilization of combatants; observe and verify forthcoming elections; assist in humanitarian aid activities; and coordinate with ECOMOG, without participating in enforcement activities. UNOMIL will consist of military observers and medical, engineering, communications, transportation and electoral components, as well as a minimal support staff.

The Council welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund to aid the peace process in Liberia and called on all

Member States to contribute to it. It also welcomed the establishment of a transitional Government and called on it to conclude a status of mission agreement with the United Nations to facilitate full deployment of UNOMIL.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council renew the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for six months from 30 September, when its current mandate expires. In a report dealing primarily with Croatia dated 20 September, the Secretary-General said that he had been "sorely tempted" to recommend the withdrawal of the Force because of criticism of it and the dangers to its personnel, but that such a step could only result in further conflict.

The Secretary-General said that should UNPROFOR's mandate be extended, he would give "favourable consideration" to a suggestion by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman that it be divided into three parts -- UNPROFOR (Croatia), UNPROFOR (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and UNPROFOR (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) -- while retaining an integrated command structure. He also suggested that the Council demand that the parties in Croatia conclude an immediate cease-fire and cooperate with UNPROFOR. To enhance the Force's security, he requested the extension of close air support to the Republic.

The report also suggested that the Council direct the parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in restoring water, power, communications and other economic necessities, in order to improve the atmosphere in which the Force was working. The Council had demanded such cooperation in a resolution adopted in June. The Secretary-General said he would report to the Council by 30 November on progress made by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and by UNPROFOR, and might at that time make further recommendations, on the basis of developments and the course of negotiations between the parties.

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In a report released today entitled "Progress of Nations", the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that the developing world was making more progress regarding the welfare of its peoples than is generally recognized. In little more than a generation, average real incomes had doubled, child death rates had halved, malnutrition rates had been reduced by about 30 per cent and life expectancy had increased by about a third.

However, much more could be done to combat malnutrition, disease and illiteracy, the report noted. On average, Governments of developing countries devoted only about 10 per cent of their annual budgets to nutrition, water supply, primary health care, primary education and family planning. Similarly, only 10 per cent of international development aid was specifically devoted to those purposes.

If the task of meeting minimum human needs had been made a priority in recent decades, the report said, "we would today be living in a world in which

mass hunger, malnutrition and preventable disease were things of the past." Such a world would have less conflict, slower population growth and more manageable environmental problems, the report concluded.

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Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has written to the Secretary-General expressing his hope that the international community understands the necessity of the measures he took on Tuesday, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Yeltsin yesterday dissolved the Supreme Soviet and called elections for a new Parliament in December. In his letter, he said he had been motivated by the desire to preserve democratic changes and economic reforms.

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Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has appealed to the Security Council and the Secretary-General to help save his country from separatist forces besieging the city of Sukhumi. In a letter to the Council dated 20 September, he called on "all the peoples of the world" to save Georgia from "perishing in the fires of imperial reaction", saying that the aggression against the country was a well-coordinated and well-orchestrated collective blow.

The Georgian President said that neither resolutions of the Security Council nor statements by the Secretary-General nor peacemaking efforts by the Russian Federation had yielded any positive results in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict. He went on to express his gratitude to all those who were helping Georgia, which was being "forced into the abyss of annihilation".

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